

Half Crown Neighborhood Conservation District
NEWS FOR PROPERTY OWNERS AND RESIDENTS
MAY 3, 2001

UPDATE ON THE HALF CROWN NCD STUDY COMMITTEE'S WORK

The Half Crown NCD Study Committee has met three times since March 29 and has explored a number of issues facing the neighborhood, including ways to reinvigorate the membership component of the Commission. The Committee has suggested names of possible new members for the Commission. It has also recommended that the Half Crown and Marsh NCD Commissions each contribute an at-large member to the other's commission, thereby building a bridge between the districts and encouraging communication.

When the Committee makes its final recommendations on membership, it would also like to include a list of other issues that may be of concern to the neighborhood. Some of the issues raised so far by the Committee on behalf of the neighborhood include:

- *concerns about recent property sales and the potential for increased development in and around the district;
- *discussion of the possible enlargement of the district to include sections of Ash, Acacia and Hawthorne streets;
- *questions about the impacts of exterior lighting and enforcement of the zoning code to control "light spill" onto neighboring properties;
- *questions about the impacts of mechanical noises from heating and ventilating equipment on neighboring properties and enforcement of the city's noise ordinance;
- *concerns about providing public toilets in and around Harvard Square.

Are these concerns you share? Do you have other concerns you would like the Committee to consider? Please let us know. Call or e-mail Sally Zimmerman (617 349 4686; szimmerman@ci.cambridge.MA.US).

SAVE THE DATE! JUNE 10 WALKING TOUR OF HALF CROWN

The Study Committee has scheduled a Walking Tour of the Half Crown district for Sunday, June 10 at 4:30 PM. We will meet at the corner of Hilliard and Brattle streets, adjacent to the American Repertory Theatre. The tour will last approximately one hour and end with refreshments at 159 Mount Auburn Street. Please join us to learn more about the neighborhood, past, present and future!

ARE YOU INTERESTED IN SERVING ON THE HALF CROWN NCD COMMISSION?

The Study Committee has identified several people who may be interested in serving on the Commission. These individuals will be contacted directly. If you would like to be considered for the Commission, please let us know. The Commission will need 3 alternate members, all of whom must be resident property owners in the district. Alternates participate equally in the Commission's deliberations.

WHAT THE DISTRICT DOES: PROJECTS REVIEWED BY THE HALF CROWN NCD COMMISSION

You may not know that, since its establishment in 1984, the Half Crown NCD Commission has reviewed over 150 applications to alter properties in the district. The following projects are among those reviewed:

- * the construction of 10-12-14 Gerry Street
- * the demolition and reconstruction of 5-7-9 Gerry Street
- * renovations at 8 Gerry Street, 8½ Ash Street Place, 33-35 Ash Street, 22 Hilliard Street, 30 Ash Street, 146 Mt. Auburn Street, 1 Fuller

Place, 31 Ash Street, 136-138 Mt. Auburn Street, and many other properties.

The Commission's mission is to ensure that, when changes happen to properties in the district, those changes are appropriate to the character of the neighborhood. Large-scale changes to district properties, like demolition and new square footage additions, are reviewed at public hearings, giving abutters a forum for their concerns even if the proposed change is "as-of-right" by zoning.

WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT YOUR HOUSE?

The Cambridge Historical Commission has information on all Cambridge buildings. To find out more about YOUR house, contact the Historical Commission (617 349 4683) or visit the Historical Commission office, 831 Massachusetts Avenue, Cambridge (Central Square T stop); research hours are Tuesday through Friday, 9:30-11:30 AM and 2:00-4:00 PM.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

The Committee's next scheduled meeting is Thursday, May 10 at 5:30 PM in the Harvard Information Center, Holyoke Center Arcade, 1350 Massachusetts Avenue. Future Updates will include notice of any additional meetings.